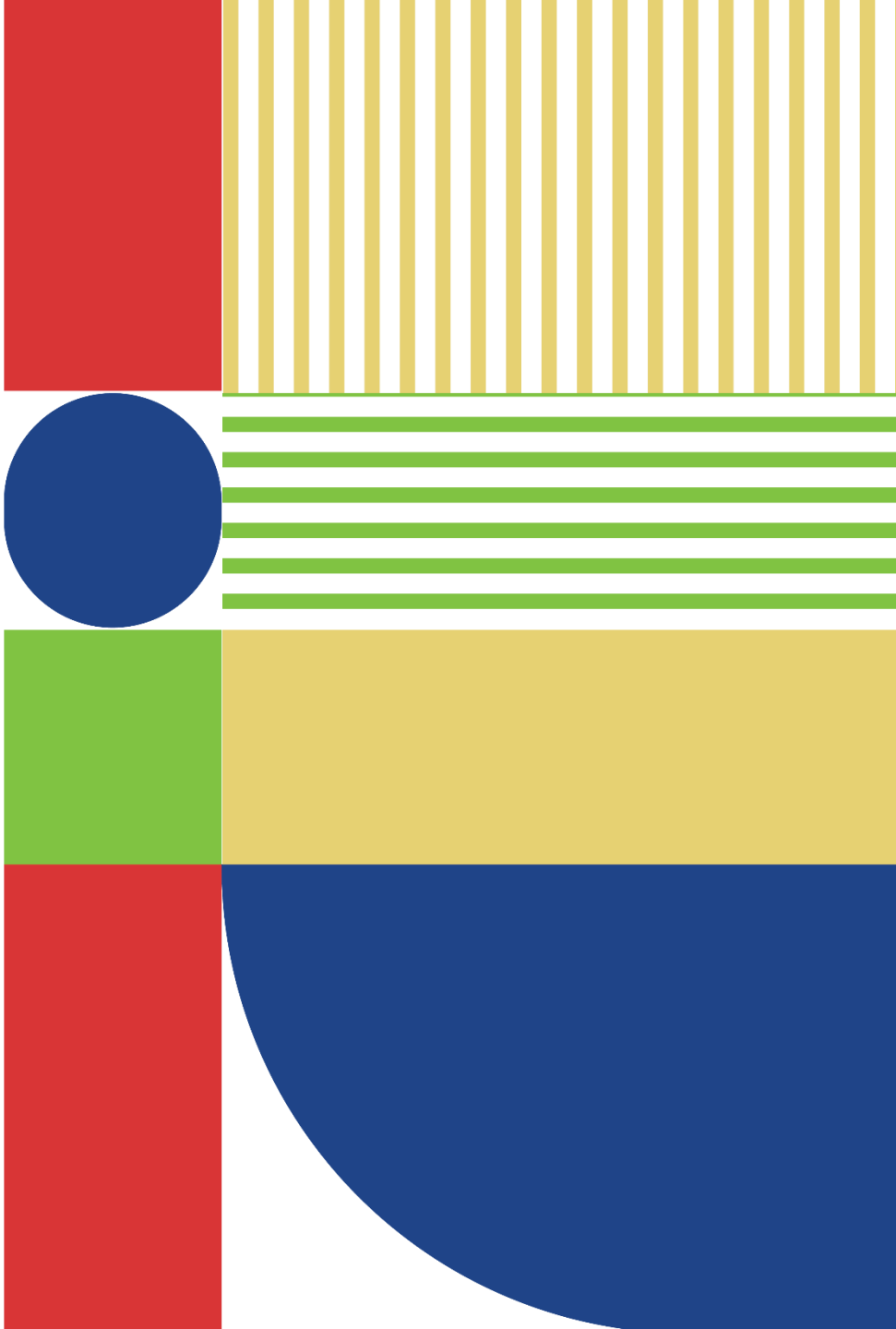
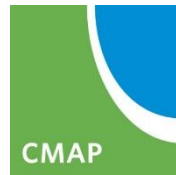


# Fox River Corridor Plan

## From Burtons Bridge to Johnsburg

**ENR Committee Meeting**  
**January 7, 2021**



# Why a corridor plan?

Build on existing plans and initiatives

Establish a shared vision

Help set priorities, coordinate decision-making, obtain grants/funding

# Fox River Corridor Plan

Comprehensive plan for the Fox River and its communities from Burtons Bridge to Johnsburg

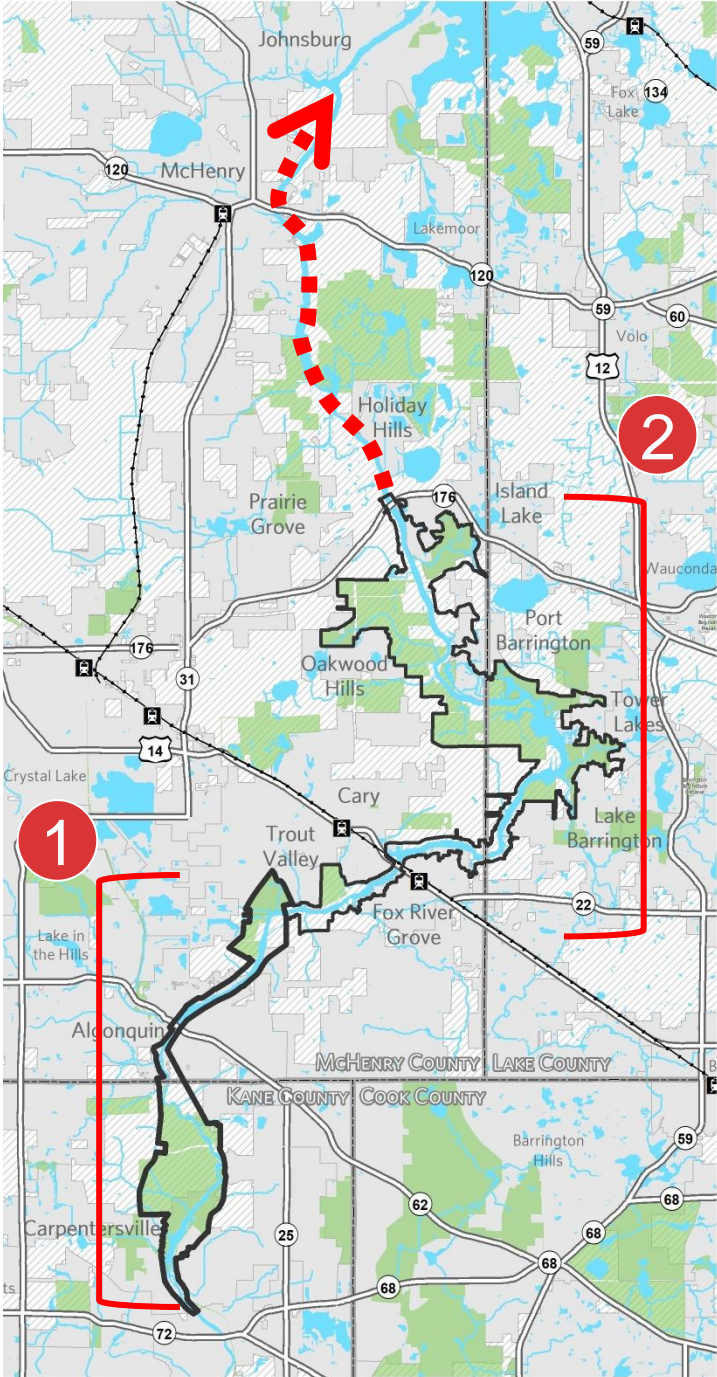
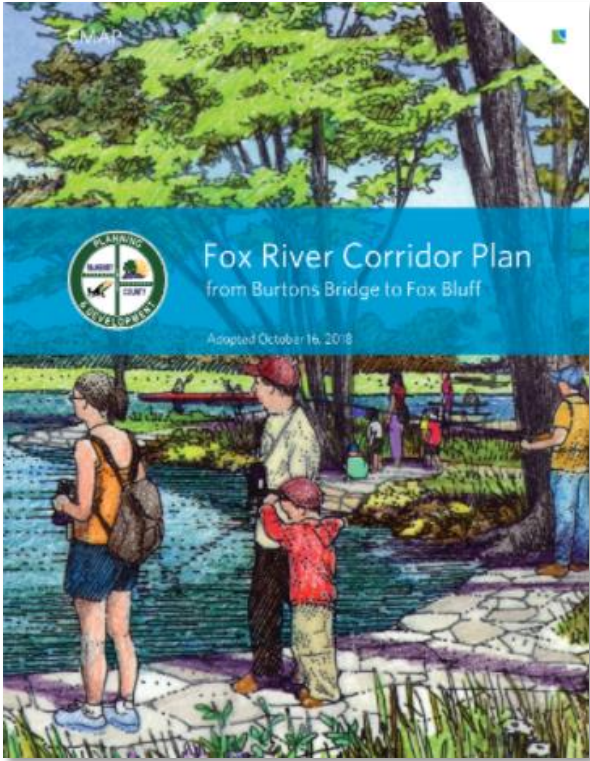
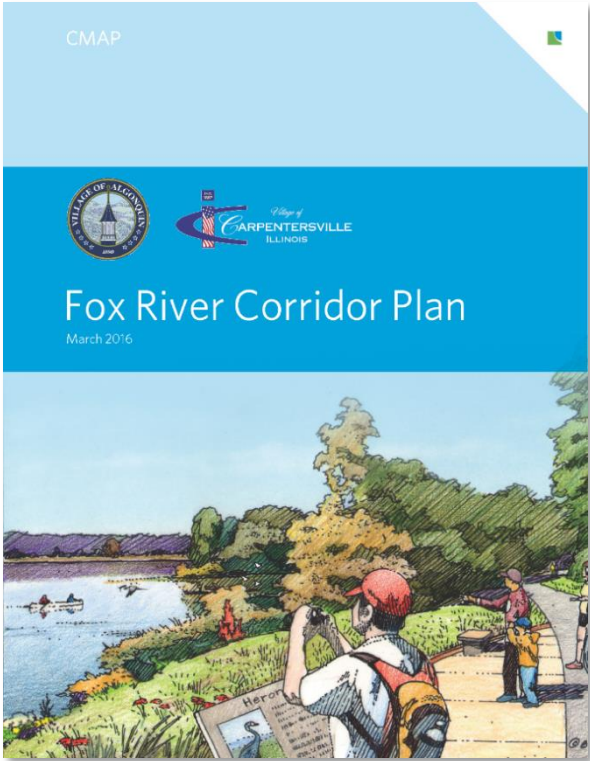
Topic Areas:

- Economic development
- Natural resources
- Parks and recreation
- Access and connectivity



# Previous planning efforts

- 1. Algonquin and Carpentersville (2016)
- 2. Fox Bluff to Burtons Bridge (2018)



# Key stakeholders



**Project sponsors:** McHenry County and the City of McHenry

## **Steering Committee:**

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

Fox River Study Group

Fox Water Agency

Hermann's Rest-A-While

Illinois DNR

Lower Fox River Alliance

McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce

McHenry County Bicycle Advocates

McHenry County Conservation District

McHenry-Lake Soil & Water Conservation District

Moraine Hills State Park

Village of Holiday Hills

Village of Johnsburg

Village of Prairie Grove

Visit McHenry County

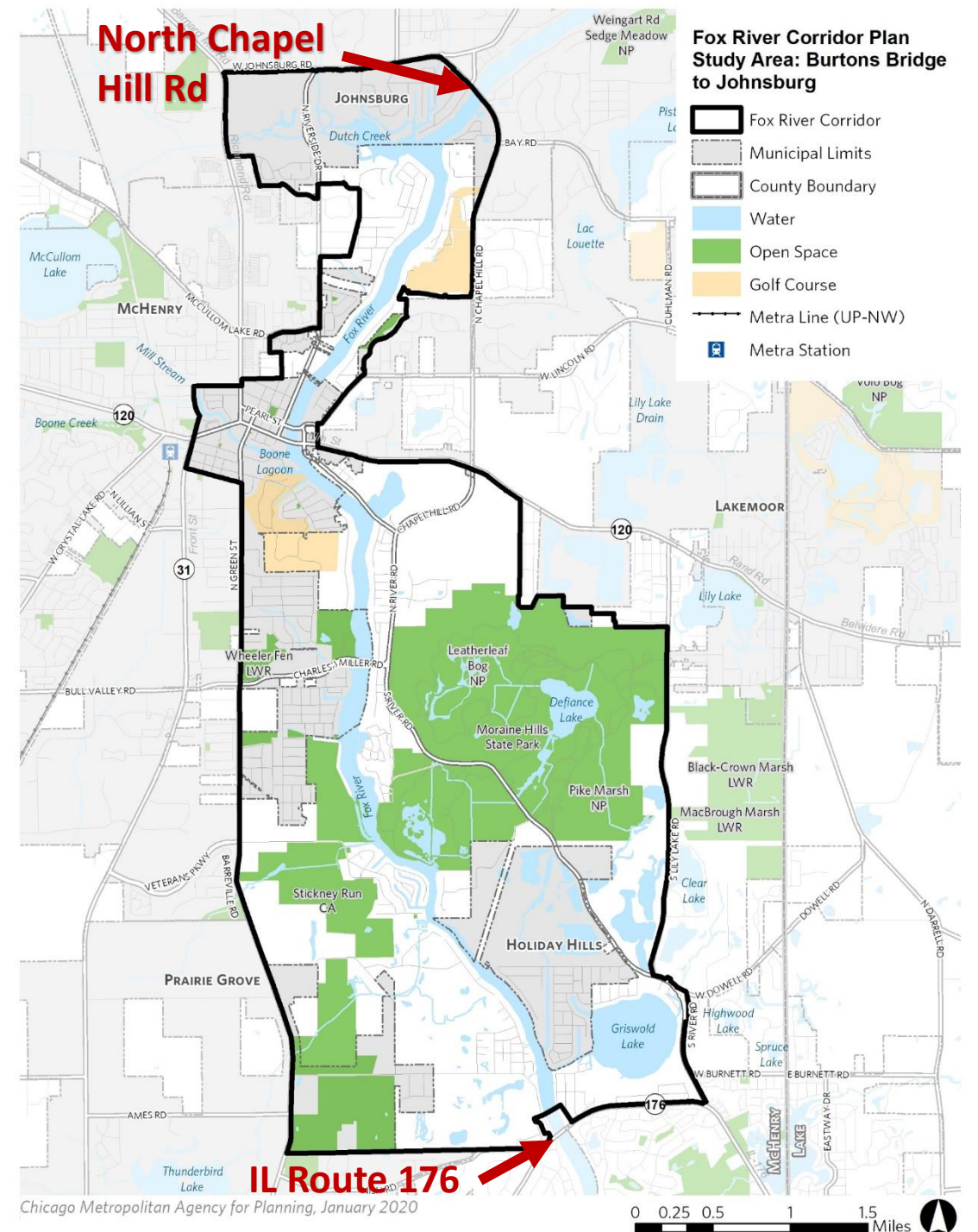
# Plan study area

## Communities

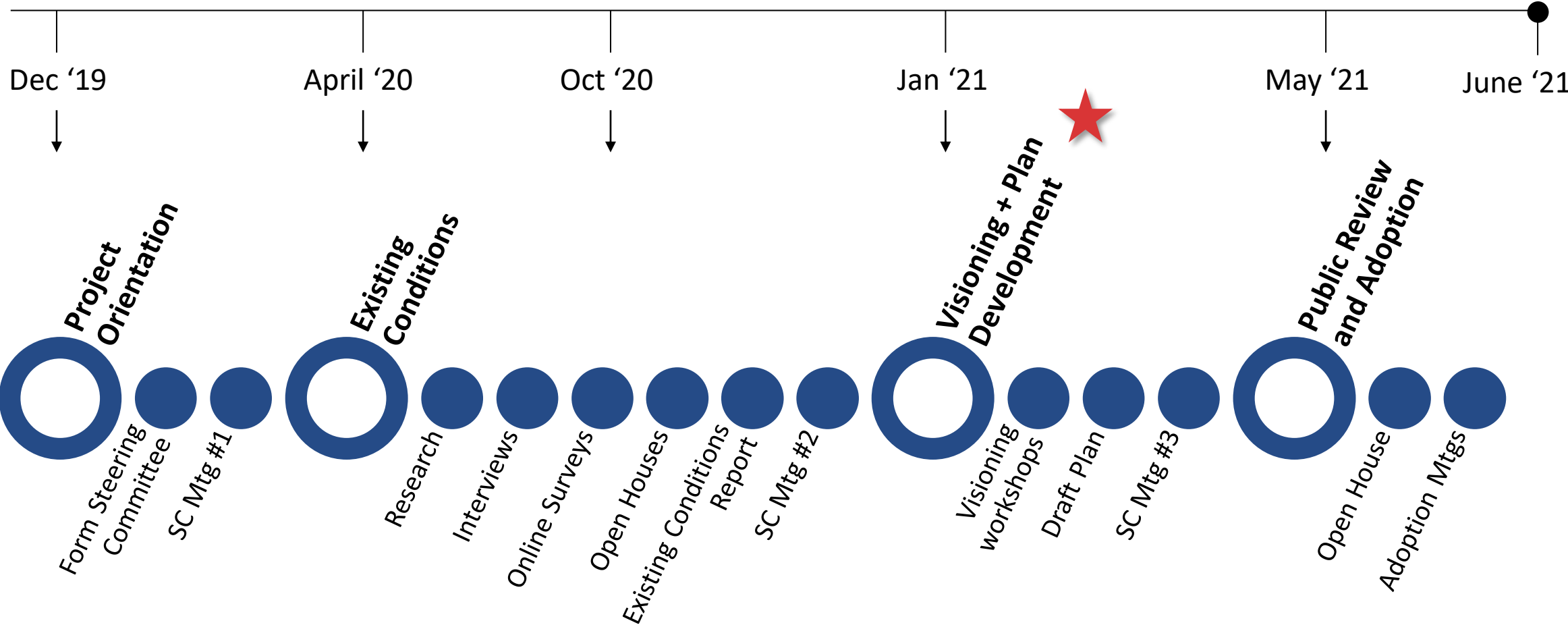
- McHenry
- Johnsburg
- Holiday Hills
- Prairie Grove
- Unincorporated McHenry Co.

## Protected open space

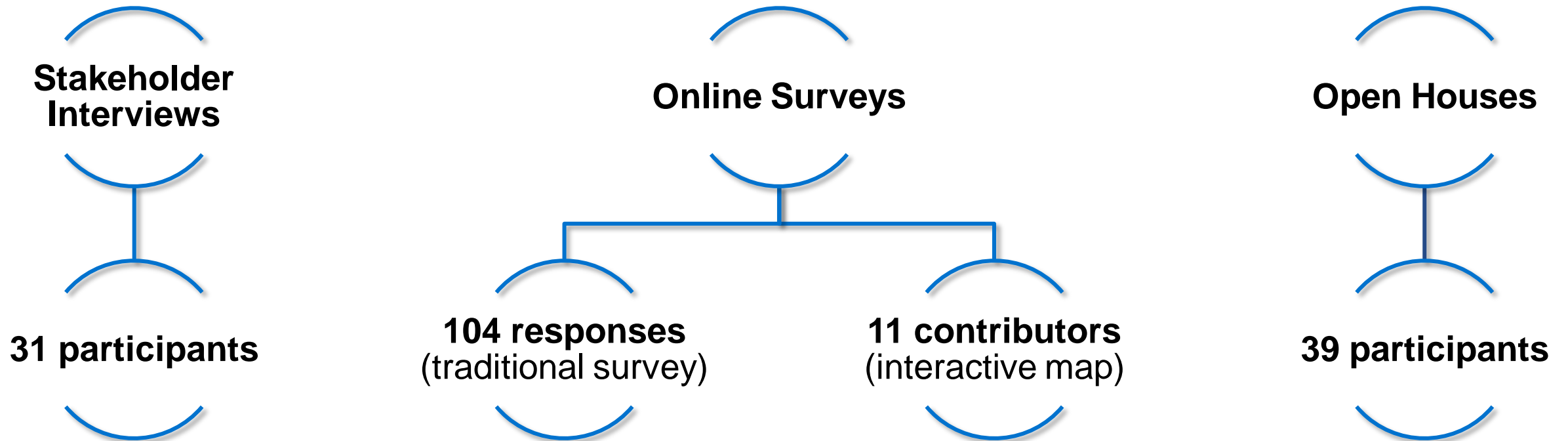
- Moraine Hills State Park
- Stickney Run
- Wheeler Fen



# Planning process



# Community outreach





# Community outreach

## *What we've heard...*

- Prioritize stakeholder coordination
- Improve stormwater management and flood control
- Balance environmental stewardship and recreation
- There's potential to make local economy stronger

# Existing conditions report

## *Issues and opportunities*

- Economic development
- Flooding and water resources management
- Open space and habitat
- Recreation
- Access and connectivity

## *Looking Forward*

# Economic development

## Opportunities:

- Fox River and surrounding open space attract visitors and generate business
- McHenry and Johnsburg are reinvesting in their downtowns
- Riverfront development prospects exist in downtown McHenry

## Issue:

- Reinvestment efforts may be interrupted by COVID-19



Source: Robin F. Pendergrast Inc.

# Flooding and water resources management

## Issues:

- Flooding impacts residents and businesses
- Management of river and supporting infrastructure needs improvement



Source: Village of Johnsburg

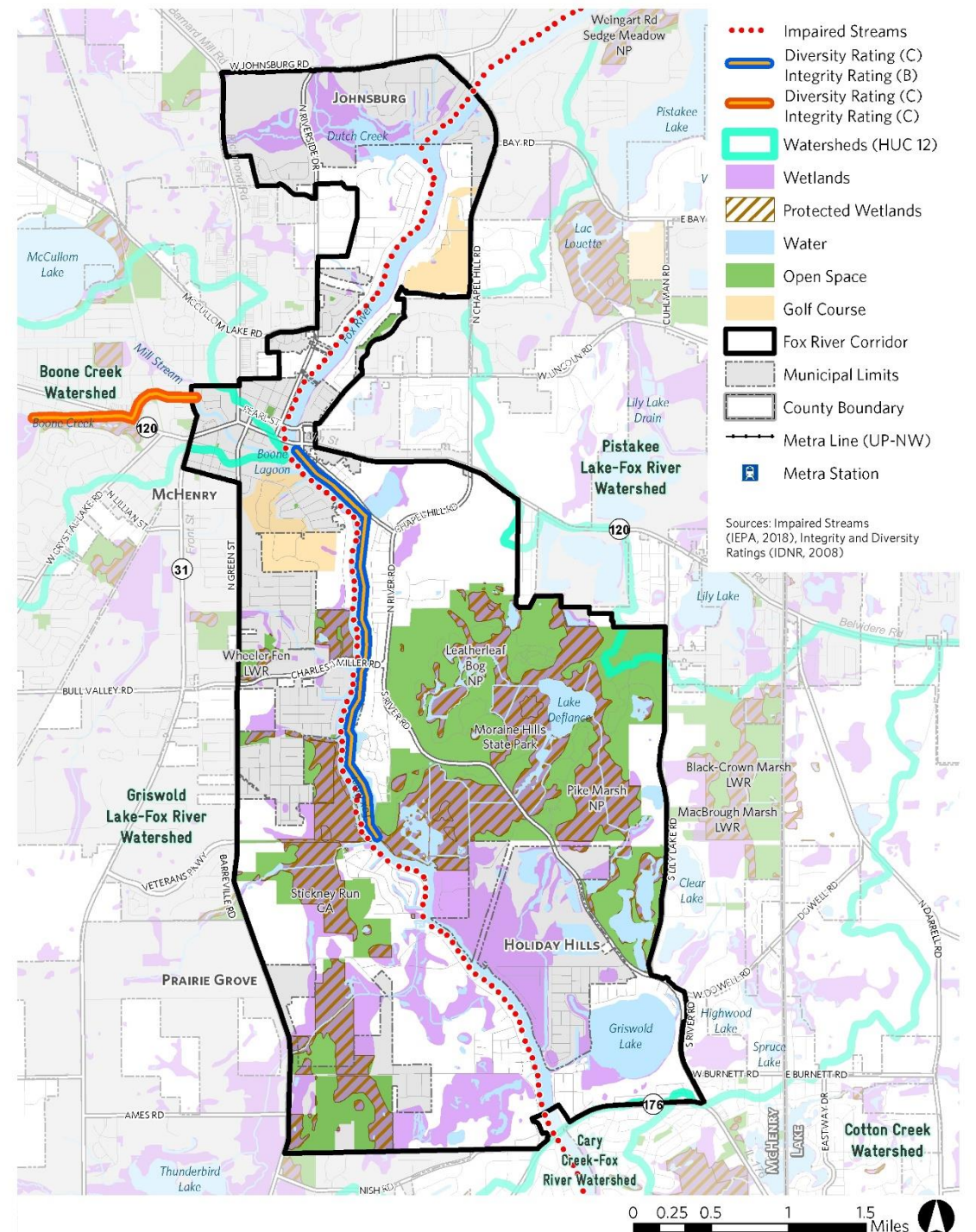
# Flooding and water resources management

## Issues:

- Water pollution affects aquatic life and limits recreation
- Groundwater contamination is a threat to water supply and aquatic habitat

## Opportunity:

- Citizen groups are working to improve water quality



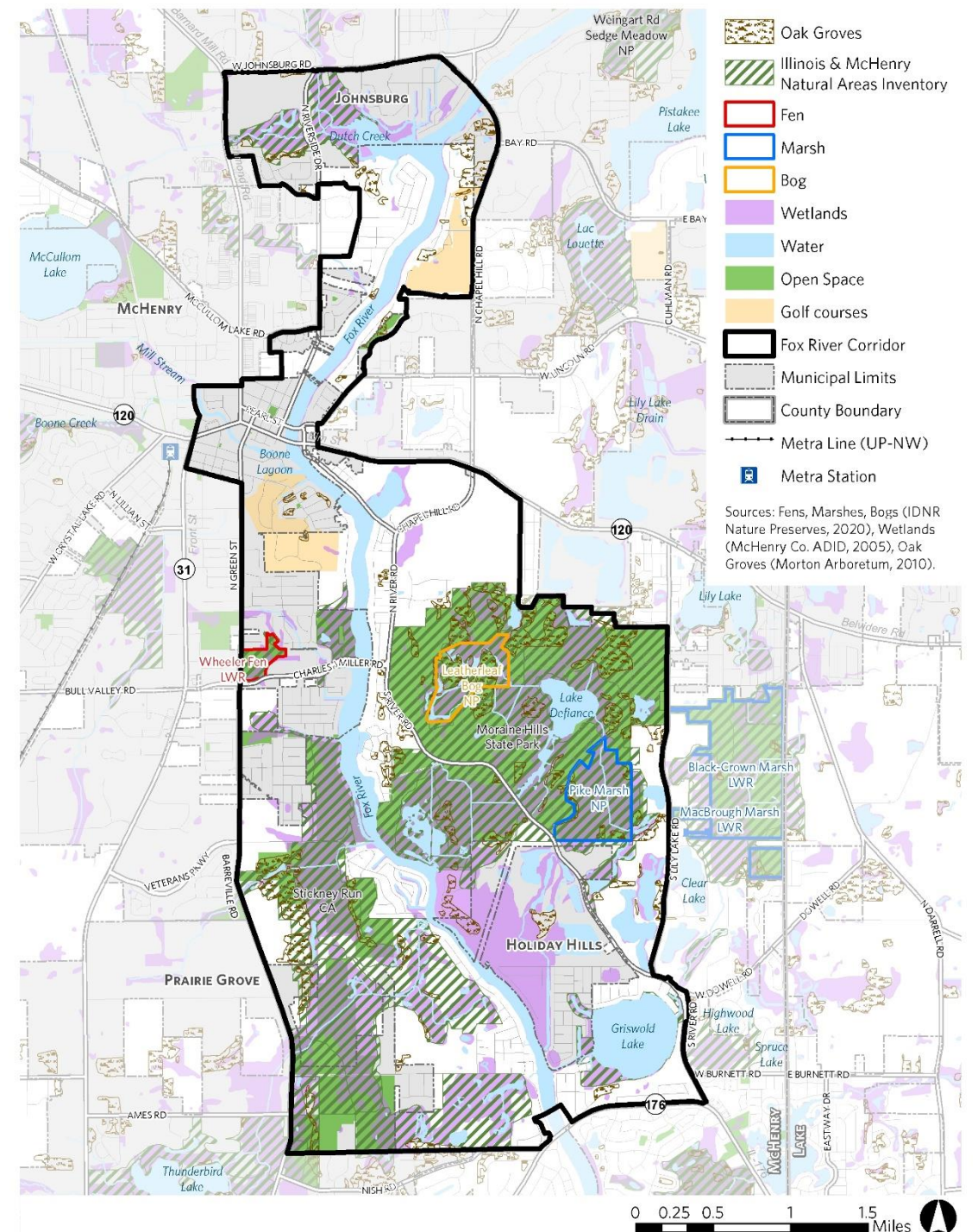
# Open space and habitat

## Opportunities:

- Open space network provides ecosystem benefits and supports unique flora and fauna
- Strong network of stewardship and management organizations

## Issue:

- Management and restoration challenges heightened by COVID-19 pandemic



# Recreation

## Opportunities:

- Potential to improve and expand recreational amenities and programming
- Recreational amenities could benefit from a coordinated marketing and communications strategy

## Issue:

- Sedimentation limits motorized boating



Sources: City of McHenry, NW Herald, Chicago Trib (top to bottom)

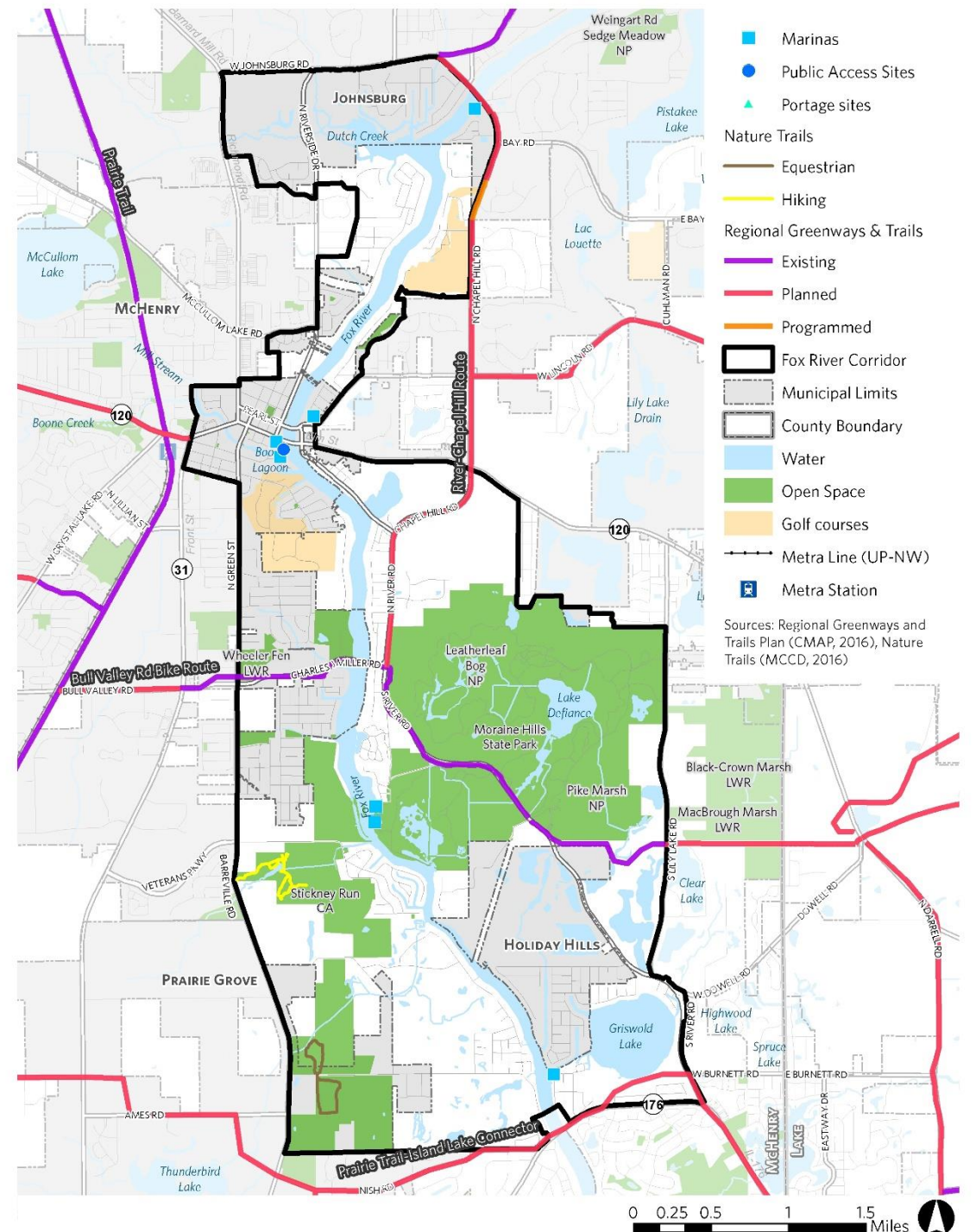
# Access and Connectivity

## Opportunities:

- Local trails could benefit from stronger connections to region trail network
- Safety and circulation within the Corridor is improving

## Issues:

- Public river access is limited throughout the corridor
- Limited public transit options to boost local and regional tourism





# Discussion

Are there particular issues/opportunities we should prioritize?

How can this plan look toward the future while also responding to the impacts of the pandemic?

Anything else we should consider as we finalize the ECR?

# Visioning and plan development

## Engagement opportunities:

- Public visioning workshops – January 19 and 21
- Online visioning survey: [https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/fox-river-mchenry/survey\\_tools/visioning-survey](https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/fox-river-mchenry/survey_tools/visioning-survey)

## Next steps:

- Key recommendations memo
- Draft the plan

### Visioning Survey

Help us shape the future of the Fox River Corridor from Burtons Bridge to Johnsburg! This survey is designed to help us understand your vision and priorities for the Corridor as well as give you the opportunity to share your ideas about potential strategies and actions that the plan should consider. It should take approximately 8-10 minutes to complete the entire survey. The questions marked with an asterisk are required, but all others are optional. Thank you for your participation!

TAKE SURVEY



### PUBLIC VISIONING WORKSHOPS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



### FOX RIVER COMMUNITIES

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**Tuesday**  
**January 19, 2021**  
**2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Thursday**  
**January 21, 2021**  
**6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

McHenry County and the City of McHenry, in partnership with Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, will host two virtual visioning workshops via Zoom for the Fox River Corridor Plan.

Attend a workshop to share your vision and goals for the future of the Fox River and its communities, from Burtons Bridge to Johnsburg. This is a great opportunity to share your ideas with your family, friends, and neighbors. Everyone is welcome!

The workshop will build upon the success of the public open houses held in November 2020 where participants identified opportunities and challenges within the Fox River study area.

Register for a workshop using one of the following links:

Tuesday, January 19, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.: <https://zoom.us/join/register/4IElfuyrrD8tGdKWpztWEOmyB6PJTUc3MkgM>

Thursday, January 21, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.: <https://zoom.us/join/register/4IAf-mqz4rGgQsUWBoWzo-cllED84y46rx>

Please contact Kelsey Pudlock at [kpudlock@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:kpudlock@cmap.illinois.gov) or 312-386-8631 with any questions. To learn more about the project, visit <https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/fox-river-mchenry>.



# Discussion

How can education play a role in our engagement efforts?  
What are some strategies?

What else should we consider as we head into visioning  
and plan development?

# Thank you!

<https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/fox-river-mchenry>

Kelsey Pudlock, Associate Planner

[kpudlock@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:kpudlock@cmap.illinois.gov)

312-386-8631

